

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

A. Claims 1, 2 and 11

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,727,999 to Takahashi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed upon during the personal interview, Takahashi does not disclose the synthesizing unit, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 11.

Thus, claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Takahashi. Further, claim 2, which depends from claim 1, is also patentable over Takahashi for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1, as well as the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

B. Claims 7, 9, 17 and 19

The Office Action rejects claims 7, 9, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Takahashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,072,902 to Myers.

As agreed upon during the personal interview, Myers does not remedy the deficiency of Takahashi. Specifically, the Examiner and Applicants' representative agreed that none of the applied references teach or suggest the synthesizing unit, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 11. Claims 7 and 9 depend from claim 1 and claims 17 and 19 depend from claim 11. Thus, claims 7, 9, 17 and 19 are patentable over Takahashi and Myers for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claims 1 and 11, as well as the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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